

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) An electromagnetic switch for a starter, comprising:

a bobbin;

a plate-like terminal having a first end and a second end, the first end being attached to the bobbin in an axial direction of the bobbin;

an excitation coil wound around the bobbin, an end of the excitation coil being pulled out the bobbin and connected to the terminal;

a cover mounted on the terminal, wherein the terminal passes through the cover in the axial direction;

a plunger which is slidably provided in the bobbin in the axial direction and attracted in one way by magnetic force generated in the excitation coil;

a rod slidable in the bobbin in the axial direction with the plunger, the rod defining an annular groove on an outer circumferential surface and having a first end and a second end opposite to each other, the first end opposing the plunger; and

a rod cover fitted on the rod and having a flange, a cylindrical part and a distal end opposite to the flange, the cylindrical part having a plurality of projections which project inwardly from an inner circumferential surface of the cylindrical part, are arranged in a circumferential direction, and are fitted in the annular groove, and the cylindrical part defining a plurality of slits each of which extends in the axial direction between the plurality of projections without reaching the distal end.

15. (Original) The electromagnetic switch for the starter according to claim 14, wherein an axial length of the cylindrical part from the plurality of projections to the distal end is substantially equal to an axial length of the rod from the annular groove to the first end.